

Honorable Chairman and members of the committee:

For the record my name is Becky Stockton and I reside in Helena, Montana.

I am here today to adamantly oppose HB 733 for the following reasons:

With the information age upon us and the internet available to anyone, I, as a parent and a female can do the research on the vaccine for HPV Gardasil on my own and inform my daughter the pros and cons of it. I also can take my daughter or myself to the doctor and ask his opinion whether or not if I need to take this vaccine. This is a personal matter that deserves privacy with our physician, not with the Department of Public Health and the public schools. The legislature has legislated that a minor child can have an abortion without the parental consent, why would I want to give more of my parental rights to these organizations when I, the parent knows what is best for my child. Also by doing the research myself, I can save the taxpayers \$45, 657 from the years 2008 -2011 and this money amount is taken from the fiscal note attached to this bill, as with all fiscal notes this is an approximation and it will be higher.

Remember this is not a communicable disease like polio, measles, mumps, smallpox and etc. that can affect all the population. Of course the schools should have a vested interest in these diseases because they can be transmitted in the classroom where students are required to assemble. But with HPV, there should be no conceivable or allowable situation that would allow the transmission of a STD in the school because students are not allowed to have sex at school. Abstinence is the best way to prevent HPV and that should be taught and reinforced in the public and private schools.

Let's be clear, the media hype has all of us believing that the vaccine for HPV is a cure for all cervical cancer, when in actuality it is not. HPV is known to cause a high percentage of cervical cancer, but not all cervical cancer is caused by HPV. Just because the female receives this vaccine does not in any way mean that she can not at sometime in her life acquire cervical cancer.

I have looked at the study. There was no research done to see if this vaccine could produce sterility in these young girls and Gardasil has not been evaluated for the potential to cause carcinogenicity or genotoxicity (the degree to which something causes damage to or mutation of DNA).

Other questions to ask, can they assure us that these vaccines will absolutely in no way cause injury to our children? Do you know whether or not if there is a fund is set up to allow payment to those injured by vaccines? Can the vaccine potentially cause the disease that it is protecting against?

In conclusion, this is not the proper way to handle this. This is a parental and doctors decision, not a public health or public school concern. Please vote no on HB 733.

Becky Stockton